Though religion teacher Mrs. Tarney has worked at Catholic for four years, she has generated quite a following of students and whose appreciation and respect for her is unlike that of any other teacher.

“I look forward to seeing Mrs. Tarney each and every day. She is an absolute delight and I don't consider a day to be a good one until I get the opportunity to enjoy the company of her smiling face,” said junior Katie Riddle.

Mrs. Tarney started working at Charlotte Catholic after teaching in the Confirmation program at St. Paul Newman where she worked with middle school students but she said, “I like working with high school kids the best.”

But before she began teaching, she would have never guessed she would end up at Charlotte Catholic. “I believe every step I have taken in my life brought me to Catholic, something always guided me towards this direction,” she said.

Mrs. Tarney studied psychology in college and after she got her master’s degree, her facilitator Bill Martin, who was a former teacher at Charlotte Catholic, informed her of an open job opportunity at Catholic. It was a part time position and he made her an appointment and told her to go.

After the she was hired, Mrs. Tarney said “Well that must be God, because I wasn’t thinking of anything along these lines.”

Now, as she teaches junior and senior religion classes, her favorite part about being a teacher is interacting with the students and getting to know all of them. She equally loves the school environment and said, “It’s like a family atmosphere. All of the faculty and students have a decent relationship that is unmatched from anywhere else.”

Any student that has, or even had, Mrs. Tarney will instantly crack a smile at the sound of her name, saying, “I love Mrs. Tarney” and then proceed to share their endless praise for their favorite teacher. Some students even refer to her class as ‘Tarnia’, relating her class to the magical experience often depicted in C.S. Lewis’ The Chronicles of Narnia.

Many students also say she has an endless amount of patience and she rarely ever gets angry. She said, “I just won’t get angry. None of my students have ever done anything to make me really mad.”

Outside of school, Mrs. Tarney has three kids and enjoys spending time volunteering at her church, singing in the church choir on Sundays, and occasionally saves time for knitting and crocheting. She said singing in her choir has always been a favorite activity because she used to sing in her high school choir.

Like many of the students, Mrs. Tarney is excited for summer and even excited for the next school year to come.

“Never stop questioning. Never stop searching.” Created by none other than Mrs. Tarney herself, she says she lives by this inspirational advice and tries to adhere to it every day. She said, “I made it up because I’m just that awesome.”